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RETAIL PRICES - SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1940.

Food and Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses) "B" Series.

Index numbers for September Quarter 1940 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State capitals) were, - Brisbane 869, Toowoomba 843, Rockhampton 846, Townsville 921, Bundaberg 808, Charters Towers 819 and Warwick 793.

From June Quarter to September Quarter 1940 this index showed small declines in all seven cities as follows, - Brisbane 0.23 per cent., Toowoomba 0.71 per cent., Rockhampton 1.40 per cent., Townsville 0.86 per cent., Bundaberg 1.10 per cent., Charters Towers 2.15 per cent. and Warwick 1.00 per cent. Food and Grocery costs declined in all cities largely due to cheaper eggs and tea. Rents were practically stable in all cities. In Brisbane from June to September potatoes and beef were among the chief increases.

Compared with September Quarter 1939 there were increases in the combined Food and Rent Index in Brisbane (1.88 per cent.), Toowoomba (2.18 per cent.), Rockhampton (1.20 per cent.), Townsville (0.88 per cent.), Bundaberg (1.00 per cent.) and Warwick (1.15 per cent.). There was a slight decrease in Charters Towers (0.61 per cent.). The Food and Groceries Index showed percentage rises as follows, - Brisbane 2.81 per cent., Toowoomba 3.57 per cent., Rockhampton 1.79 per cent., Townsville 1.35 per cent., Bundaberg 1.55 per cent., and Warwick 1.41 per cent. Charters Towers declined slightly. Rents showed small rises in Brisbane, Rockhampton, and Warwick; small declines in Toowoomba, Townsville and Bundaberg and no alteration in Charters Towers.

In Brisbane from September 1939 to September 1940 the chief increase in price was that for beef. Smaller rises were recorded for mutton, bacon, eggs, pork, raisins, jam and tea.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index numbers for September Quarter 1940 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State capitals) were, - Brisbane 906, Toowoomba 895, Rockhampton 900, Townsville 949, Bundaberg 875, Charters Towers 917 and Warwick 862.

From June Quarter to September Quarter 1940 there was no alteration in the "All Items" Index for Rockhampton. Small rises were recorded in Brisbane 0.67 per cent., Toowoomba 0.56 per cent., Townsville 0.21 per cent., and Bundaberg 0.23 per cent. and small declines in Charters Towers 0.22 per cent., and Warwick 0.12 per cent. As stated above Food and Grocery costs declined in all cities and Rents were practically stable. Clothing and footwear costs increased in all cities as also did the Miscellaneous group of items comprising household hardware and drapery, fuel, light, fares etc. In Brisbane percentage variations were, - Food and Groceries - 0.45 per cent., Rent + 0.12 per cent., Clothing + 2.80 per cent., and Miscellaneous + 0.51 per cent., the net effect for All Items being + 0.67 per cent.

Compared with September Quarter 1939 the "C" Index showed the following percentage increases in each city, - Brisbane 4.62, Toowoomba 4.92, Rockhampton 4.53, Townsville 4.06, Bundaberg 3.80, Charters Towers 3.50, Warwick 3.36. Food and Groceries were dearer in all cities other than Charters Towers and Rents showed no important alteration. Clothing and footwear were dearer in all cities by the following percentages, - Brisbane 14.63, Toowoomba 14.68, Rockhampton 14.64, Townsville 14.56, Bundaberg 13.12, Charters Towers 14.54, Warwick 11.35. Percentage increases in the Miscellaneous group were, - Brisbane 2.93, Toowoomba 2.96, Rockhampton 3.61, Townsville 3.62, Bundaberg 1.51, Charters Towers 3.63 and Warwick 1.78.

In Brisbane the increases were Food and Groceries 2.81 per cent., Rent 3.51 per cent., Clothing 14.63 per cent., and Miscellaneous 2.93 per cent., the net increase being 4.62 per cent.

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COMPARISON OF COSTS IN THE QUEENSLAND CITIES.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in September quarter 1940 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City	All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane ..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0.
Toowoomba ..	19. 9	19. 2	19.10	19. 11
Rockhampton ..	19.10	1. 0. 8	17. 7	1. 0. 4
Townsville ..	1. 0.11	1. 1.11	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 3
Bundaberg ..	19. 4	1. 0.11	14.11	1. 0. 0
Charters Towers ..	1. 0. 3	1. 1. 8	14. 5	1. 0. 5
Warwick ..	19. 0	19. 8	16. 0	19. 3

COMPARISON OF COMMONWEALTH AND STATES BASIC WAGES.

In the following statement comparisons are made between Commonwealth and State Court basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The figures in the columns headed "Adjusted State Basic Wage" show the amounts a worker would require in Brisbane (or Queensland) to purchase the goods and services that he could buy with the State Basic Wages of other States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State.	METROPOLITAN.				WHOLE STATE a.		
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series.	Commonwealth Basic Wage "C" Series.	State Basic Wage c.	Adjusted State Basic Wage d.	Price Index Nos. "C" Series.	State Basic Wage c.	Adjusted State Basic Wage d.
Queensland ..	906	3.19. 0	4. 4. 0	4. 4. 0	906	4. 4. 8	4. 4. 8
New South Wales	973	4. 5. 0	4. 5. 0	3.19. 2	970	4. 4.11	3.19. 4
Victoria ..	968	4. 4. 0	4. 4. 0	3.18. 7	964	4. 3. 8	3.18. 8
S. Australia ..	939	4. 0. 0	3.18. 0	3.15. 3	935	3.18. 0	3.15. 7
W. Australia ..	941	4. 0. 0	4. 5. 4	4. 2. 2	955	4. 6. 3	4. 1.10
Tasmania ..	948	4. 1. 0	4. 1. 0	3.17. 5	938	4. 0. 0	3.17. 3

- a. Average for "5 towns" in each State, weighted by population.
- b. Corresponding to the September Quarter 1940 "Court" Index numbers with the addition of the special loadings. To be operative from beginning of first pay period in November.
- c. In New South Wales the Basic Wage of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration is adopted in State Awards. Victoria and Tasmania have no declared State Basic Wage, but awards follow Commonwealth Rates to a large extent; and Commonwealth rates have been shown for these States. For Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia current State Basic Wages are shown.
- d. This represents the Basic Wage of each State with adjustments for differences in the cost of living (C Series).

RETAIL PRICES INDEXES.

Table No. 1. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY.	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending Decr. 1939	Year Ending Sept. 1940.	QUARTERS ENDING.				
				Sept. 1939	Decr. 1939	March 1940	June 1940	Sept. 1940
Brisbane ..	901	858	865	853	855	865	871	869
Toowoomba ..	833	830	839	825	828	836	849	843
Rockhampton ..	858	843	849	836	840	852	858	846
Townsville ..	1047	920	921	913	913	920	929	921
Bundaberg ..	(b)	804	809	800	801	811	817	808
Weighted Average -								
Five Towns (a)	892	858	864	853	855	864	871	867
Charters Towers	942	815	826	824	822	827	837	819
Warwick ..	841	783	793	784	788	788	801	793

Table No. 2. THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY.	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending Decr. 1939	Year Ending Sept. 1940	QUARTERS ENDING.				
				Sept. 1939	Decr. 1939	March 1940	June 1940	Sept. 1940
Brisbane ..	917	870	892	866	874	887	900	906
Toowoomba ..	906	858	880	853	862	874	890	895
Rockhampton ..	903	867	890	861	872	887	900	900
Townsville ..	1023	918	937	912	921	932	947	949
Bundaberg ..	(b)	847	865	843	851	860	873	875
Weighted Average -								
Five Towns (a)	915	871	893	867	876	888	902	906
Charters Towers	925	883	909	886	896	904	919	917
Warwick ..	914	834	853	834	842	845	863	862

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.
(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 3. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	MONTH OF			Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	MONTH OF		
	Sept. 1939	June 1940	Sept. 1940		Sept. 1939	June 1940	Sept. 1940
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread ..	2 lb.	5.75	5.75	Milk ..	1 qt.	6.00	6.00
Flour ..	2 lb.	4.05	4.05	Bacon(Rashers)	1 lb.	14.73	15.45
Tea ..	1 lb.	26.95	28.86	Beef - Sirloin			
Sugar ..	1 lb.	3.98	3.96	Roast ..	1 lb.	8.70	9.45
Jam (Plum) ..	1½ lb.	8.25	8.73	Beef - Steak			
Raisins ..	1 lb.	10.64	11.27	Rump ..	1 lb.	11.40	12.10
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	15.32	11.86	Beef - Rolled			
Onions ..	1 lb.	3.86	2.15	Brisket	1 lb.	5.40	5.95
Soap ..	1 lb.	6.18	6.24	Mutton - Leg	1 lb.	7.45	7.75
Butter ..	1 lb.	19.00	19.00	Mutton - Chops			
Cheese ..	1 lb.	13.27	13.36	Loin ..	1 lb.	7.50	7.75
Eggs ..	1 doz.	14.55	23.23	Pork - Leg	1 lb.	11.30	11.60